

GREENSCENE

E - M A G A Z I N E

South Carolina's Environmental News for Educators ● "News Teachers Can Use!"

Americans to observe World Water Monitoring Day

Water – the universal solvent – is able to hold many things including pollutants. Pollutants can make water unsafe for fishing, swimming and drinking. While our waters are cleaner today than 30 years ago, about one-third of the country's waters are unsafe for fishing and swimming.

For this reason, America's Clean Water Foundation and the International Water Association are inviting people and organizations from around the globe to share in the experience of water quality monitoring on World Water Monitoring Day 2003. World Water Monitoring Day serves as a global educational platform for watershed leaders, educators and trained volunteers to help those who are less experienced better understand how the actions of individuals in a watershed can impact many others.

From September 18 to October 18, citizens throughout the world community will have an opportunity to monitor the quality of their local watersheds (an area where water drains into a body of water) and enter the results of their efforts into an international database. If you do not have the necessary equipment, a kit may be purchased that tests dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity (clarity) and pH.

Organizers of World Water Monitoring Day are expecting global participation in the event. For more information about the kit or to enter test results, visit www.worldwatermonitoringday.com.

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S.C. prepares for America Recycles Day

For the seventh straight year, teachers and students across South Carolina will "Make Every Day America Recycles Day" by celebrating the importance of recycling and waste reduction with various activities, culminating on November 15.

The event centers around the collection of challenge cards, signed by persons promising to recycle, recycle more or purchase products made from recycled materials. By doing so, persons become eligible to win prizes, including \$1,000 from the S.C. Soft Drink Association. Last year, more than 32,000 residents made that commitment.

In addition, International Paper is sponsoring two essay contests, seeking nominees for Recycling Teacher and School of the Year. In 500 words or less, nominees should state what actions they take to promote recycling and buying recycled. Winners will receive boxes of recycled content paper.

And finally, an essay contest will be held for the All-American Recycling Family of the Year. While the prizes are still being confirmed, portions of the prize pack

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this newsletter is
provided electronically
but if you need a printed copy,
please use RECYCLED paper.*

DHEC offers comprehensive environmental education programs, materials

Bureau of Air Quality

DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality CONTACT INFORMATION

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In an effort to increase air quality awareness in the classroom and school, the Air Education and Outreach section in DHEC's Bureau of Air Quality provides educational programs, materials and assistance to educators. These programs are helpful in teaching students how they can help reduce air pollution in South Carolina. For more information of any of these efforts, please contact staff within the Education and Outreach Section for assistance. Available programs include:

- **Ozone Action Class (OAC)** is an interactive program that focuses on how to reduce ground-level, ozone-forming air pollution through the outreach efforts of local schools. Teachers supply the guidance while the students do the work. An OAC Administrator will visit your school to educate the faculty and staff about the program and offer assistance throughout the duration of the school's project. The program is on the Web at www.scdhec.gov/baq. For more information, contact Amy Curran at (803) 898-4297 or curranaa@dhec.sc.gov.
- **"Action for a cleaner tomorrow"** (see page 4 for an synopsis of the curriculum supplement) includes an extensive list of air lessons. Some of the lessons focus on the properties of air, how air is used, airborne pollutants, effects of weather on air pollution, ground-level ozone and measuring air quality. For more information, call **1-800-768-7348**.
- **A Competition for Cleaner Air** is an interactive Web site designed for students that encourages daily behavior changes that will help reduce ground-level, ozone-forming air pollution. The program is set up as a competition between two teams with the teachers as the coaches and the students as the players. Each activity is assigned cumulative points throughout the duration of the competition. There is a winner at the completion of the competition, but everyone who participates is an environmental champion. For more information on the Competition for Cleaner Air Program, contact Amy Curran at (803) 898-4297 or curranaa@dhec.sc.gov or Michael Monroe at (803) 898-3261 or monroemc@dhec.sc.gov.
- Several **educational community events** have been held to promote air pollution awareness and to present air pollution solutions for the public. Some past events include: Ozone Action Class Awards to recognize schools for their community outreach efforts, participation in the Kid's Day activities in North Augusta and Columbia and a Gas Can Exchange in Greenville. The schools are encouraged to get involved in community outreach activities. For more information about educational community events, contact Donna Culbreath at (803) 898-4293 or culbreadd@dhec.sc.gov.
- Receiving the **Ground-level Ozone Forecast** and sharing it with the community is the first step in getting everyone involved in reducing ozone-forming air pollution. The forecast coincides with ground-level ozone season, which runs from May 1 – September 30. The state is divided into four areas, each receiving Air Quality Index readings, along

with corresponding color codes. In addition, cautionary statements, or health advisories, are issued daily. The ground-level ozone reading is posted on DHEC's Web site at www.scdhec.gov/baq/ozone. To automatically receive the Ozone Forecast, contact Donna Culbreath at (803) 898-4293 or culbreadd@dhc.sc.gov.

Bureau of Water

DHEC's Bureau of Water (BOW) provides technical assistance and a variety of outreach programs to the regulated community, water professionals and the public. These programs have been designed to promote education and understanding of issues concerning South Carolina's precious water resources. The programs fall into three basic areas of education: learning about the environment; taking responsibility for protecting and enhancing the environment; and award and recognition for improving South Carolina's environment. BOW offers the following programs:

- **The Runoff Pollution Program** provides information and resources on non-point source water as well as provides information and resources on non-point source water pollution issues. Non-point source water pollution is defined as contaminated runoff water. It occurs when rainfall or irrigation water picks up contaminants as it flows over the ground and carries them to surface or groundwaters. Resources, presentations and demonstrations using an interactive watershed model are available to teachers and students. A quarterly newsletter, "Turning the Tide," focuses on current non-point source programs and issues. It is available for professionals and the public. For more information contact Anne Marie Johnson at (803) 898-4187 or johnsoam@dhc.sc.gov.
- **S.C. Water Watch** is a unique effort to involve the public and local communities in water quality protection. The Water Watch program encourages residents to become stewards of the state's lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries and wetlands. Volunteers select a water resource on which to focus and perform one or more activities aimed at protecting water quality. Activities include conducting shoreline surveys, litter cleanups and storm drain stenciling. Individuals and groups of all ages are encouraged to participate. For more information, call (803) 898-4300.
- **Champions of the Environment** is a student recognition program that encourages environmental involvement and awareness. Nationally recognized for its innovative approach to environmental education, the program promotes hands-on learning by recognizing students working on exemplary environmental projects beyond the usual realm of the classroom. With scholarships and media coverage, Champions of the Environment encourages student initiative and self-esteem. The program promotes environmental awareness, leadership, conservation, creativity and self-confidence through activities such as group projects, public speaking and environmental research. Champions of the Environment is jointly sponsored by DuPont, International Paper, WIS-TV and DHEC. For more information contact Lynne LaSalle at (803) 898-4211 or lasallli@dhc.sc.gov.
- **The Drinking Water Education Program** provides the public and drinking water professionals in South Carolina with information and technical assistance concerning drinking water issues. Available programs include school presentations for community groups and a

Continued on the following page

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ADOPT-A-SCHOOL is a program sponsored by the Water Environment Association of South Carolina (WEASC). The goal of the program is to "adopt" schools by providing guest speakers, presentations and tours of wastewater treatment plants. Free water quality educational resources are available. For more information, call (803) 898-4180.

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In addition, for another hands on water project, consider joining the Beach Sweep/River Sweep, a national event observed in South Carolina. "Sweepers" collect litter from along beaches and riversides. This year's Sweep will take place on September 20 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

To participate in a lake, river, stream, creek or wetland cleanup, contact Lynn Quattro at S.C. Department of Natural Resource's Land, Water and Conservation Division at (803) 734-9094 or quattro@dnr.state.sc.us. To participate in a beach cleanup, contact Susan Ferris with the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium at (803) 727-2078 or Susan.Ferris@scseagrant.org.

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variety of free literature. For more information, contact Stephan Bullock at (803) 898-4180 or bullocks@dhec.sc.gov.

- BOW also offers the **Wetlands Education Program**. Wetlands make up about 23 percent of the state's land surface. In addition to being the most productive ecosystem on the North American continent, wetlands have multiple and diverse functions. These functions include improving water quality, providing flood protection, recharging groundwater, providing recreational opportunities and serving as valuable wildlife habitat. The growing awareness of the importance and value of this natural resource has led to legislative protection and restoration proposals across the country. For more information, contact Quinton Epps at (803) 898-4249 or eppsbg@dhec.sc.gov.

Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling

Education is a priority for DHEC's Office of Solid Waste Reduction and Recycling (Office). It's centerpiece education programs are listed below. Many of the Office's resources are available at www.scdhec.gov/recycle.

- **"Action for a cleaner tomorrow: A South Carolina Environmental Curriculum Supplement"** ("Action") is an interactive CD-ROM featuring more than 170 lesson plans in four main subject areas: air, energy, solid waste and water. The lessons, which are South Carolina-specific when possible, include recycling, waste reduction, buying recycled, landfills, air quality, ozone, water quality, run-off pollution, drinking water, litter and energy conservation. All lessons have been correlated to the S.C. Standards for science, social studies, language arts and mathematics. In addition, the CD-ROM includes video clips of a composting facility, an incinerator, a materials recovery facility and a landfill. Also included are some of the award-winning public service announcements (PSA) featuring the Recycle Guys. The PSAs teach recycling, buying recycled, grasscycling, energy conservation, ozone, water runoff, holiday recycling and many others. "Action" is only available through training workshops offered by the Office. The workshop, CD-ROM and educational materials are available at no cost. Please visit www.scdhec.gov/recycle or call 1-800-768-7348 to set up a workshop.
- **The Green Driver Project** targets high school driver education classes on the environmental impact of driving. The classroom presentation by DHEC staff members centers on the importance of used oil recycling, maintaining vehicles, energy conservation, related air and water issues, litter prevention and safety. These topics are featured in a video, "DHEC 1: Behind the Oil Change," shown during the presentation. For more information, visit www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/greendrv.html. To schedule a Green Driver Project presentation, call 1-800-768-7348.
- **Energy 2 Learn (E2L)** is a comprehensive kindergarten through 12th grade energy education program designed specifically for South Carolina students and teachers. E2L includes correlated lesson plans from "Action for a cleaner tomorrow: A South Carolina Environmental Curriculum Supplement," science fair projects, recognition programs for schools and teachers and other materials and resources including special classroom presentations to sixth-grade students. Many of the materials offered include South Carolina-specific energy information available only in the E2L program that provide students a unique, personal life-long understanding of the state's energy usage and needs. For more specific information on all of the E2L programs, resources and materials offered, please visit www.scdhec.gov/recycle or call 1-800-768-7348.

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include a Rubbermaid cooler, 12 cases of soft drinks, compact fluorescent light bulbs and water saving showerheads.

Whether you teach an environmental lesson, hold a school rally or put a copy of the challenge card in the school newsletter, do what you can to "Make Every Day America Recycles Day."

For complete contest information or to request challenge cards for your school or district, log on to www.scdhec.gov/recycle/html/ard.html.



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